

Recreation director and co-ordinator resign

By LORI TAYLOR
Herald staff writer

Halton Hills recreation and parks director Glen Gray has submitted his resignation, effective October 12.

Mr. Gray said he will be moving north to the Bruce Peninsula, and will be doing some consulting work from his home.

Recreation program co-ordinator Anne Pickering has also submitted her resignation, and says she plans to spend some time travelling.

Mr. Gray submitted his resignation in the form of a letter to council last week. He said he has gained "personally and

professionally" from his work with the recreation department.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy said the resignation was something of a surprise to him. He said he would like to offer Mr. Gray "every success".

EXTREMELY BRIGHT
"You're an extremely bright young person," Mayor Pomeroy said. "It's been nice working with you."

"On behalf of the staff, we appreciate your assistance trying to make Halton Hills a fine place to live," clerk-administrator Ken Richardson said. "I know Parks and Rec-

reation is not always an easy area to work in. You're in public scrutiny more often than the rest of us."

Mr. Gray joined the recreation and parks department of the town of Georgetown in the fall of 1973. He was initially the program co-ordinator and was appointed director of recreation and parks in the fall of 1975.

Miss Pickering joined the recreation department in 1974 as a pool supervisor in Acton. She was promoted to the position of recreation co-ordinator in Acton, and later to the position of program co-ordi-

ator. Her responsibilities include the booking of recreation facilities such as soccer fields, baseball diamonds and schools.

Mr. Gray told the Herald there have been a number of developments in recreation in Halton Hills in the six years he has been here which he feels will benefit the community.

One of them is the recognition of the arts as part of the town's recreation program, with the formation of such groups as the Credit Valley Artists, the Halton Hills Arts Council and activities such as Summerfest, Mr. Gray said.

Another development was the formalizing of the reciprocal agreement between the town and the Halton board of education about the use of facilities belonging to both, he said. This agreement had been a verbal one, and was now set out formally about the use of school facilities for recreational purposes and the use of recreational town facilities by students.

MOST PROUD
One of the achievements of the recreation department of which Mr. Gray is most proud is the draft master plan for the use of open space, parks and recreational facilities in Halton Hills over the next ten years or more. Although the plan is still in the draft stages, Mr. Gray said he can already see some of the benefits of the plan.

A special committee of council has met once already with Mr. Gray and town planner Mario Venditti to review the plan. The committee, once it has completed its study of the plan will make its recommendations to council, he said.

"I want council to take their time reviewing the plan, so they know exactly what's in it before they proceed with it," Mr. Gray said.

The recreation department has been embroiled in a certain amount of controversy in the past year over the "user pay" concept, particularly with arena rentals, and Miss Pickering has been involved with community groups in studying the concept of groups assuming more of the costs of maintaining the facilities.

"Most community groups recognize that the day of free facilities is long behind us," Mr. Gray said. "Something has to be done to cover the costs. The town's costs are rising almost daily for heating, hydro, staffing and so on, and we can only be so flexible."

"By discussing the matter with the community groups involved, we may be able to

determine what the groups can do to enable themselves to deal with the increasing cost of renting facilities, and what the town can do to assist the groups," he said.

Mr. Gray said that Halton Hills has an advantage in that many municipalities have already been through the problem of reviewing the "user pay" concept, so the recreation department and council will know what they are facing.

PAST YEARS
Miss Pickering said that over the past couple of years, the recreation department has made increasing use of grants from the federal and provincial government. Programs such as Operation Action and Interlink were funded by grants from the government.

"We've been able to make use of the grants to accomplish projects that we wouldn't otherwise have been able to do because there just wasn't the money," Miss Pickering said. "We were also able to try different things, such as sports clinics, instead of having people sign up for a ten-week course," Mr. Gray said.

"We've been able to get involved in leisure education with the help of some of the programs Operation Action has been running," Miss Pickering said. "We've been acting more as co-ordinators than as program directors."

Miss Pickering said the new federal government has not yet announced its grants program so the town recreation department has no idea what grants will be available next year for any more such programs.

Another change in recreation in Halton Hills has been in the summer programs, Miss Pickering said. The program has changed from a free playground where children come

and go when they please to a more structured program. "With more concern for quality," she said.

"We've steered away from the traditional summer program," she added.

Mr. Gray said he has some regrets about leaving Halton Hills, and in his letter of resignation he said he will miss the advantages of living and working in Halton Hills. He added that he has made many friends in the community, and I don't expect these friendships to end just because I'm moving away."

NEXT YEARS
He expressed his appreciation for the assistance of the individuals and groups involved with the different forms of recreation in Halton Hills, and

and he hopes the master plan will reflect what these people have said.

"Hopefully their suggestions have been applied to the master plan and it will suggest exciting things which could happen in recreation in Halton

Hills in the next few years," Mr. Gray said.

Miss Pickering said she wants to thank everybody she has directly involved with in her work with the recreation department, and also the staff with whom she has worked



Glen Gray

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